



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2009
Human Resources Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Mary Basham, Christina Brenner (Vice Chair), Karen Famini, Jan Kiely (Chair), Donna Roper (Officer at Large), Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jan DeWald, Lisa Maldonado

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Patrick Kiernan, Katherine Salinger

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

GUESTS PRESENT: Christine M. Cook, Assistant District Attorney Sonoma County, James Kiernan, Sandra Parker-Burns, John King, candidate for County Supervisor, 2nd District

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Roper motioned to approve the November 12, 2009 Agenda and the October 8, 2009 Draft Commission Minutes, Basham seconded.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

King commented that he was puzzled because he has heard good things about the CSW, but discovered that the CSW is not very well known. He asked if in the past, had County Supervisors invited the CSW to public meetings they were attending or sponsoring, to familiarize the CSW with the public?

Parker-Burns expressed appreciation for the Commission's Junior Commissioner Project offering youth an opportunity to participate.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced that every district but the 1st district has openings, totaling five (5) openings.



V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

Kiely reported on the October 27, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting, when she presented the CSW 2009 – 2011 Work Plan.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Work Plan:

Kiely passed out copies of the PowerPoint shown while presenting the 2009 – 2011 Work Plan to the Board of Supervisors, and acknowledged Acosta's work creating it.

Kiely shared the following comments from the Board of Supervisors regarding the Work Plan:

1. The Board acknowledged the Junior Commissioner Project and Women's History Month as two main focuses.
2. Human Trafficking: Supervisor Brown strongly recognized that the CSW started this project, and didn't want that focus lost, encouraged the CSW to stay involved in it.
3. Domestic Violence: still an issue to be involved with.
4. Juvenile Justice: juveniles are a vulnerable population. An increase in CSW participation in this issue is requested, if there is a way to participate. Roper said the League of Women Voters is working on Juvenile Justice, and may be an organization to contact for information on what is being done, and what can further be done.
5. Both Supervisors Brown and Zane expressed the need to have more women in positions of representation.
6. Supervisor Carrillo is concerned with teen pregnancy and the dropout rate of Latinos. Discussion of this topic went into length.
 - Kiely asked if peer counseling could help, and asked if Junior Commissioners could possibly assist. Kiely will talk with Famini.
 - Kiely asked J. Kiernan's opinion, due to his experience on an elementary school board for 16 years. J. Kiernan said middle school is a problem time. He suggested having one school from Kindergarten - 8th grade, then going to high school, would help keep youth engaged in learning.
 - Acosta will contact the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) for a presentation to the Commission on what is currently available in the county for dropouts, and will also contact Christine Cook of the District Attorney's office for similar information.
 - Brenner suggested that student mentors, beginning early in a student's life, and continuing throughout, is also a way to prevent these issues.

WIN Fund:

Brenner discussed the Junior College Endowment form that needs to be completed, and the letter requesting donations that needs to be drafted and approved by the Commission before it can be sent.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Family Justice Center and Domestic Violence Awareness:

Christine Cook, Assistant District Attorney, spoke about the Family Justice Center (FJC). The Board of Supervisors is working with the County Administrators Office and General Services to purchase land on Mendocino Avenue, near the Sheriff's Dept., for the Center's location. The opening is planned for Spring, 2010.

Cook gave a brief history of the original Family Justice Center, started in San Diego in 2002, and said there are only two Family Justice Centers west of the Mississippi, one in Alameda, California.

The Family Justice Center is a one-stop shop for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, financial and emotional elder abuse, and eventually will also link to the Redwood Children's center, bringing service providers together in one place and easily available. Cook foresees the Family Justice Center also linking with health clinics by video relay. Currently in Sonoma County victims may have to go to over 23 different locations for various types of assistance, which is a challenge, especially for people experiencing crisis.

The Family Justice Center will have childcare on site, job training, and personal necessities, for those who have escaped in flight. There will be a 'Navigator' position, a person to help move the victim through the process, including physically walking with them to their appointments, tracking and monitoring their appointments, and getting them back on track if appointments are missed.

Cook invited Commissioners to attend Family Justice Center planning meetings. The next meeting will be November 16, 2009, 3-5 pm. She also suggested the CSW may want to appoint a Liaison to the Family Justice Center. (Ex-commissioner Patricia Boyd had been a FJC Liaison before resigning from the CSW.)

Brenner is interested in exploring ways the Family Justice Center can work with the Human Trafficking Task Force, and will contact Cook to discuss the possibilities.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS: START

Junior Commission:

P. Kiernan reported that the last Junior Commission meeting went into detail on focus groups. He gave the example that a focus group is different from a discussion group.

Women's History Month Coordinator

Basham has guest speaker Velma Guillory Taylor, Ph.D., confirmed to speak on "Writing Black Women Back Into History." Where the event will be held is still undetermined.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

- ◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**
No report this month.
- ◇ **AAA (Area Agency on Aging Liaison) Liaison (Kiely):**
Kiely reported the agency is struggling with funding cuts and is making very hard choices on where to use the funding they do have: transportation (buses), meals on wheels, kitchens at senior centers, and access to services.
- ◇ **Career Technical Education and Non-Traditional Career Liaison (Brenner):**
No report – the group has not met recently. The next meeting is planned for January, 2010.
- ◇ **Domestic Violence Liaison (Roper):**
Discussion to have a Liaison to the Family Justice Center and or the Family Violence Prevention Council occurred. Brenner expressed interest in being Liaison to the Family Justice Center. Roper offered to attend one meeting to find out the time commitment required of a Liaison, and will report back at the next Commission meeting.
- ◇ **Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):**
No report – the November meeting was canceled.
- ◇ **Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):**
Vivio circulated a report, '2009 Legislation Relevant to the CSW' detailing the following: Assembly Bill, Author, Title/Topic, Discussion, Status, Action, CSW Comment, and Partners.
- ◇ **Representation Coordinator (Roper):**
No report – the group has not met recently. Roper wishes to partner with a Latina group for the next representation and appointments workshop, planned for late spring, 2010.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

The attendance report was distributed. Roper will contact DeWald.

Budget Report Distribution:

The budget report was distributed.

Correspondence:

The mailbag was electronically distributed earlier.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- WIN Fund: Endowment form and donation letter – Brenner
- SCOE: Representative to address the Commission – Acosta
- Board of Supervisors: the CSW invited to speak at community organization and other public meetings – Basham

XI. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

XII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.